

REMARKS

Prior to a first examination, please enter the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The application papers filed herewith are a true copy of the prior complete application filed on February 12, 2001 having Application No. 09/782,875.

Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a), this divisional application filed under 37 CFR 1.53(b) claims the benefit of and is a divisional of U.S. Application No. 09/782,875, filed February 12, 2001, pending.

Claims 1-22, 46-63, 67-76, and 83-94 have been canceled without prejudice. Claim 37 and 43-45 have been amended by this response. Claims 95-119 have been added. Accordingly, Claims 23-45, 64-66, 77-82, and 95-119 remain at issue in the patent application. Of those remaining at issue, claims 23, 37, 38, 45, 64, 77 and 114 are independent claims.

Applicant believes that no new matter has been added by this preliminary amendment.

I) RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In an Office Action in the parent patent application, claims 1-22, 46-63, 67-76, and 83-92 were restricted to class I, elected, and prosecuted in the parent patent application no. 09/782,875.

Claims 93-94 in the parent patent application were restricted to class III and not elected for prosecution therein.

Thus, Applicant has cancelled claims 1-22, 46-63, 67-76, and 83-92 without prejudice because they were previously prosecuted in the parent patent application.

Applicant has cancelled claims 93-94 without prejudice in order to comply with the restriction requirement.

Claims 37-45 were also restricted originally to class I and elected for prosecution but were later withdrawn because they required searching in a different class. Claims 95-119 in the parent patent application were also withdrawn and not examined on their merits.

Claims 23-36, 64-66, and 77-82 in the parent patent application were restricted to class II and not elected for prosecution therein.

Applicant presents claims 23-36, 64-66, and 77-82 of class II and claims 37-45 of the parent patent application for examination on the merits. Claims 95-119 of the parent patent application are also added herein for examination on the merits.

The claims cancelled herein, claims 1-22, 46-63, 67-76, and 83-94, were cancelled for reasons unrelated to patentability.

II) NEW CLAIMS

Applicant has added new claims 95-119 which were originally presented for examination in the parent patent application but were cancelled prior to any substantive examination therein.

Dependent claims 95-107 depend indirectly from independent claim 37 and are based on claims 24-36, respectively. Dependent claims 108-113 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 45 and are based on claims 39-44, respectively.

Claim 114 is an independent claim which is based on claim 77. Claims 115-119 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 114 and are based on claims 78-82, respectively.

III) CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 37 was amended to include the limitations of claim 23 to which it previously referred. Claim 37 was also amended to clarify the invention as having forward fingers. These amendments to claim 37 were not made for reasons related to patentability.

Claim 43 was amended to clarify that the strap and septum are a part of the shielded housing.

Claim 44 was amended to correct a grammatical error by adding --of--.

Claim 45 was amended to include the limitations of claim 38 to which it previously referred. Claim 45 was also amended to clarify the invention as having forward fingers. These amendments to claim 45 were not made for reasons related to patentability.

IV) DRAWINGS

Applicant has amended Figures 4A, 11B, and 12B as illustrated in red in the "REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF DRAWING CHANGES submitted herewith.

Applicant has amended the drawing of Figure 4A to delete the reference number 403.

Applicant has amended the drawing of Figure 12B to dash out the host panel, bezel, faceplate, or backplate 1210 that would otherwise obscure a portion of the fiber optic module including a portion of the fingers 112A-112D.

Applicant has amended the drawing of Figure 11B to dash out the host panel, bezel, faceplate, or backplate 1110 that would otherwise obscure a portion of the fiber optic module.

Applicant has also deleted respective lettering BW and FW in FIGs. 11B and 12B and slightly modified reference lines therein from a couple of reference numbers to a number of elements for better clarity.

Applicant has further amended Figure 11B to add the reference number 700 with associated pointing line and Figure 12B to add the reference number 100 with associated pointing line in the "Request for Approval of Drawing Changes" attached hereto.

Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is added by these amendments.

Applicant respectfully requests the approval of the Examiner to these drawing changes and submits a duplicate of the drawing changes for the draftsman's review.

V) SPECIFICATION

Applicant has amended the specification as follows:

Applicant has added the section heading "CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS", and a reference to the parent case from which this divisional application claims the benefit thereof.

Under the heading "BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS", the brief description of Figures 11A, 11B and 12A has been amended to correct typographical errors in the Figure numbering and to note the purpose of the dashed lines shown therein.

In amendments to a paragraph beginning on page 36, line 20, the "internal shields" were further set out as the -- (shielding collars 622A and 622B) and the U-plate 624)-- and the reference to a "plastic module chassis frame 120 or 120'" was deleted as it was incorrectly identified as a key component to achieve good electromagnetic compliance (EMC) for EMI and external noise immunity.

VI) TITLE

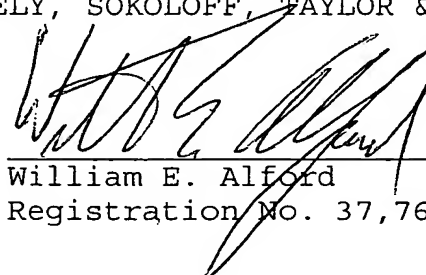
Applicant has amended the title to reflect both methods and apparatus (e.g.; product by process claims) are being claimed.

CONCLUSION

A first examination of the pending claims is respectfully requested. Allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned counsel by telephone at (714) 557-3800 to expedite the prosecution of this case should there be any unresolved matters remaining. To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 02-2666 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted
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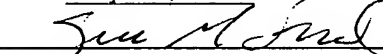
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on: July 11, 2003


Susan McFarlane
7/11/03
Date